

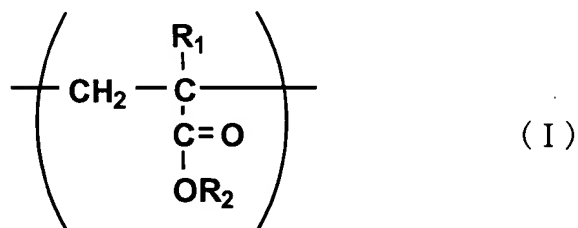
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a poly(meth)acrylate having a reduced metal content and in which a bound site to (meth)acrylic acid is a tertiary carbon or in which said site is an acetal,

which comprises contacting a mixture of a poly(meth)acrylate in which a bound site to (meth)acrylic acid is a tertiary carbon or in which said site is an acetal and an organic solvent with an acidic aqueous solution obtained by dissolving a polyprotic carboxylic acid having about 2 to 12 carbon atoms in water.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~poly(meth)acrylates~~ poly(meth)acrylate has a weight average molecular weight of about 1,000 to 100,000.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~poly(meth)acrylates~~ poly(meth)acrylate is a resin having a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein  $R_1$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and  $R_2$  represents ~~an organic group~~ 2-methyl-2-propyl, 1-adamantyl, 2-methyl-2-adamantyl, 2-ethyl-2-adamantyl, 2-hydroxy-2-adamantyl, 1-methoxyethyl, 1-ethoxyethyl or 1-tetrahydropyranyl.

4. (Original) The process according to Claim 3, wherein  $R_1$  represents hydrogen and methyl.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

*AI  
unit*

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the polyprotic carboxylic acid is selected from oxalic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, malonic acid and adipic acid.

8. (New) The process according to claim 3, wherein  $R_2$  represents 1-adamantyl, 2-methyl-2-adamantyl, 2-ethyl-2-adamantyl or 3-hydroxy-2-adamantyl.

9. (New) The process according to claim 3, wherein the polyprotic carboxylic acid is selected from oxalic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, malonic acid and adipic acid.

10. (New) The process according to claim 8, wherein the polyprotic carboxylic acid is selected from oxalic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, malonic acid and adipic acid.

*Alfred*  
*Connelly*

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